

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## REDEVELOPMENT BOARD

The Arlington Redevelopment Board (ARB) has three powers. It is the planning board under MGL Chapter 41 section 81A. It is the urban renewal authority for the Town under MGL Chapter 121, meaning it may, with Town Meeting approval, hold land or buildings to improve and rehabilitate them to meet community development goals. The ARB is also the Board of Survey, with authority to approve the design of ways (roads) for the purposes of ensuring that new building lots can meet zoning frontage and access requirements. As the permit granting authority for projects that fall under Environmental Design Review, the board spends considerable time reviewing applications for certain development projects to ensure that specific zoning standards are met.

The ARB met twenty times in 2014, including nine Environmental Design review Special Permit hearings. The Board voted to define a Mill Brook Study Area in July, pursuant to the work prepared by the Mill Brook Linear Park Study Group (a subcommittee of the Open Space Committee) intended to be included in the Master Plan. The Board had presented on the Mill Brook planning opportunities at a joint meeting with the Master Plan Advisory Committee, Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission and Redevelopment Board.

### Town-owned Leased Properties

The ARB manages three buildings and the Planning Department is responsible for day-to-day management of these and three additional buildings owned and leased by the Town for the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen. The six buildings consist of three former schools, one former library, and two historic houses.

The Board executed two-year lease extensions with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Mental Health and the Department of Developmental Services for the Central School. Also, the ARB issued Requests for Proposal to lease three spaces in the buildings this year consistent with state procurement law. The Board also voted to place the daytime scheduling for use of the first floor of the Arlington Multi-Purpose Senior Center under the control of the Town's Council on Aging (COA), and to reassign office spaces to the Council Aging that had been occupied at no charge by the non-profit Arlington Seniors Association (ASA). This will allow the Council on Aging to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Privacy Act when serving Arlington's increasing senior population seeking COA services. The ASA submitted a proposal to lease an office in the Central School to continue the organization's valued services.

Staff participated in a historic building assessment of the ARB's Jefferson Cutter House through a grant procured by the Dallin Museum through the Conserva-

tion Assessment Program. The assessment evaluated and sets priorities for both the building and the museum collection's conservation needs.

## PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Planning & Community Development analyzes and presents data and trends about Arlington's land use, transportation, economic development, housing, public facilities, open space and recreation, and natural and historic resources and cultural properties. The Department prepares and implements long-term and short-range plans related to the Town's natural and built environment. The Department works with the public and the private sector to ascertain and realize community goals for land use and physical development.

The Department also administers the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and other grant programs, oversees the day-to-day operations of the Redevelopment Board buildings and other Town-owned, leased buildings, and supports the efforts of Town boards, committees, and commissions charged with planning-related responsibilities.

The Department is staffed by four full-time planners, a part-time planner, a grant administrator and one support staff person. The staff supports over twenty-four Town committees and boards, plus Town initiatives. The Department administers five times as much value in federal revenue for Town services, not including the federal Weatherization and home rehabilitation programs, as it costs the Town to run the Department.

### 2014 Highlights & Initiatives



*Master Plan Advisory Committee Co-Chair Carol Svenson and Committee Members Melisa Tintocalis and Bob Radochia at Town Day*

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*Voting on design preferences.*

## Comprehensive Long-Range Master Plan

The primary focus of the Department was the master plan. In February, the Department, with the Director of Inspectional Services, presented an introduction to Arlington's zoning for Town Meeting Members and the general public. Presentations were given for the public on Land Use (January), Public Facilities and Services (including recreation and outdoor facilities) (February), Economic Development, Housing (both in March), Transportation (April), Historical and Cultural Resources Areas (May) and Natural Resources and Open Space (May). In June, a Visual Preference Survey, "Do You Like This or That?", allowing participants to use hand-held voting devices to record choices, was conducted in the Town Hall Auditorium in June and was also conducted online with 630 respondents. This survey helped to discern the community's taste in commercial district building design and streetscape design. In July, a diagnostic presentation on Arlington's current zoning was presented by RKG Associates. Then, in early November the presentations were compiled along with recommendations and implementation steps and the draft master plan was presented November. Following public comment the draft master plan was revised in preparation for a public hearing by the ARB.



*Master Plan Table at Town Day*



*Olmsted Brothers civic block garden wall restoration.*

## Olmsted Brothers Civic Block Garden and Wall Restored

Restoration was completed of the limestone wall surrounding the Olmsted Brothers-designed Civic Block Garden between Town Hall and the Robbins Library. The garden was restored to a design more faithful to its original appearance, and broken stones were re-set and repaired after earlier site changes had damaged the wall near the library.

## Broadway Plaza improvement

After forty years of occupying space in Broadway Plaza, the defunct granite and brick fountain structure was removed from Broadway Plaza and resurfaced in-kind by DPW to create more useable, passable space for potential performances, exhibits, busking, outdoor dining, and gatherings.

## Symmes Conservation & Improvement Project

Arlington 360, the residential development at the former Symmes Hospital site, was issued its final certificate of occupancy. The project includes 176 units of housing, including condominiums and deed-restricted affordable units, conservation land, and two public parks. The Assisted Living component of the project, Bright View Senior Living, was also completed and occupied, and awaits a final certificate of occupancy. Out-bound MBTA bus service resumed at the site in 2014.

## Affordable Housing

During 2014, the new Arlington 360 (former Symmes Hospital) project was occupied. Of the 176 residential units, 26 units are affordable for low-income residents and 9 are reserved for middle income as a result of the Town's affordable housing zoning requirements and other conditions required by the Town.

The non-profit Housing Corporation of Arlington (HCA) purchased two properties for development of affordable housing, with the help of federal Community Development Block Grant funds administered by the



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Department. The Kimball-Farmer House is an historic property located on Massachusetts Avenue at Forest Street. Built in 1828 and used over the years as both residential and commercial property, it will be restored to its original historic appearance, and will house 3 affordable units. Occupancy is anticipated by the end of 2015.

HCA also purchased a former church property at the corner of Westminster and Lowell Streets in Downing Square for conversion to approximately 10 units of affordable rental housing. Planning, permitting and design will occur in 2015, with occupancy anticipated in 2016.

## Community Development Block Grant

Arlington received \$1,089,484 dollars in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds that were allocated for public and community nonprofit services, public facility projects, and for housing and planning activities. Funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's CDBG program has been declining for several years. Nonetheless, 12 Public Service Agencies and 1 Public Service Staff Position received a total of 185,922 in CDBG funding and served 11,248 people. This includes individuals served via the 18 programs supported by Council on Aging volunteers.

## Transportation

The East Arlington Mass. Ave. Rebuild project construction commenced in 2014. When completed, in 2015 or 2016, the project will improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers, and provide amenities for shoppers and pedestrians, particularly in the Capitol Square business district, near the Lake Street intersection. The project is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHA).

Design was completed for the Arlington Center Safe Travel project, which will provide a connection of the Minuteman Bikeway through Arlington Center. The project seeks safer crossing of Massachusetts Avenue, Pleasant Street, and Mystic Streets for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. Construction will begin in spring/summer of 2015. This project is also funded by MassDOT and FHA.

The Department oversaw an important Parking Management Study for Arlington Center. It was conducted by consultant Nelson/Nygaard and included several public meetings with both residents and businesses. Recommendations included using pricing to create better availability of parking on the street and improvements to access and signage to make the Russell Common Lot better serve the needs of the Arlington Center Business District. The first steps toward improving the parking meters in the Lot were started in 2014.



*Molly Rubenstein from Artisan's Asylum, Bill Jacobsen from Workbar, David Miller from Pivot Desk and Emily Reichert from Greentown Labs were panelists at Co-Action*

## Economic Development

Department staff launched the Town's new Storefront Enhancement Program (SEP) and awarded the first SEP grant to help rehabilitate the exterior of 152-160 Massachusetts Avenue. In June, the Department presented "Co-Action", a second panel for commercial landlords and entrepreneurs detailing how to lease shared workspaces and businesses incubators in under-utilized real estate in town. A new Business Guide was launched both on-line and in print. In 2014 the Department started providing regular commercial vacancy reports to the Board of Selectmen using CoStar vacancy data service. Twenty businesses inquired about opening a business in Arlington.



*Co-Action panel.*

The Department prepared six technical reports to the Zoning Board of Appeals on Special Permit and Zoning Variance requests in 2014.

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## PERMANENT TOWN BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Permanent Town Building Committee (PTBC) was established by Town Meeting to oversee the design and construction of new buildings and major renovations for Town of Arlington properties. The Committee is comprised of five citizen members, appointed jointly by the chairs of the Selectmen, Finance Committee, and School Committee in addition to the Town Manager, Superintendent of Schools, and Director of Public Works or their designees.

### Activities in 2014

Community Safety Building Phase 2 (envelope repair of Community Safety Building): Project close out awaiting final water test of curtain wall when weather permits. Latent conditions and construction quality control issues have delayed the project and caused cost overruns. Project budget \$2,472,000; final cost to be determined.

Community Safety Building Phase 3 (interior renovation): Final design is 99% complete and project will be put out to bid in March 2015. Scope of work includes functional improvements to police department operations and systems upgrades to achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver. Funding for the project construction will be sought at 2015 annual Town Meeting. Project budget \$8,083,500.

Central Fire Station Phase 2 (interior renovation): Construction started in July 2014. Scope of work includes all new systems, renovation of living quarters, and relocation of Fire Headquarters from the Community Safety Building. Expected completion summer 2015. Project budget \$6,500,000.

## ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

In 2014 the Zoning Board of Appeals as prescribed in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, The Zoning Act, and, also, as further clarified by the Town's Zoning Bylaw, heard and rendered decisions on twenty-two petitions. Since its inception in 1946 the Zoning Board of Appeals has heard and rendered decisions on over 3,300 appeals. Petitions heard by the Board include Variances, Special Permits, Appeals from the Decision of the Building Inspector, and comprehensive permits (Chapter 40B).

The Zoning Board of Appeals is comprised of five regular members: the Chair and four appointees. For any decision to be granted, the vote of the five-member board must carry a super majority. All hearings are open to the public and are generally held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, as needed. The meetings are usually held in the conference room located

on the second floor of the Town Hall annex. All hearings are advertised in The Arlington Advocate for two consecutive weeks and posted on the Town Clerk's Bulletin Board at least three weeks prior to the hearing date. Hearings are also posted on the Town website and abutters to the property are notified by mail. To receive ZBA Agendas by email, subscribe online at [arlingtonma.gov/subscribe](http://arlingtonma.gov/subscribe). The Rules and Regulations of the Zoning Board of Appeals are on file in the Office of the Town Clerk and in the Zoning Board of Appeals' Office at 51 Grove Street.

### 2014 Petitions Heard By ZBA

Petitions for Variance	3
Applications for Special Permits	3
Appeal of Decision of Inspector of Buildings	0
Amendments to SP/Variances	0
Comprehensive Permits	0
<b>Total</b>	
Total Petitions filed with Town Clerk	6
Total Hearing Continued by the board	3
Total Petitions withdrawn	1

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Arlington Conservation Commission (ACC) is required by state and local laws to protect and preserve wetlands and waterways and their surrounding areas. The ACC is comprised of seven (7) volunteer Members and one (1) or more volunteer Associate Members, who are appointed by the Town Manager with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, and a part-time, paid administrator. At meetings twice a month and through on-site visits, commission members work to ensure that all construction and development projects, residential and commercial, that may alter any wetlands, floodplains, rivers, streams, ponds and/or lakes and their buffer zones are in compliance with state and local regulations. The ACC also protects and manages the Town's Conservation Lands and natural resources.

### Regulatory Activities

The ACC is mandated to protect wetlands, waterways, water supplies, fisheries, wildlife and wildlife habitat as well as regulate activities in a floodplain through its administration of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Arlington General Bylaw for Wetlands Protection. ACC members regularly seek continuing education to ensure legal compliance with frequently changing regulations and to assist applicants through the regulatory process.

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In 2014, the ACC convened twenty-three (23) public meetings, and provided coordination, monitoring, permit review, and consultation on numerous residential and municipal developments around town. The board issued five (5) Permits/Orders of Conditions, four (4) Certificates of Compliance, four (4) Enforcements, six (6) Determinations of Applicability, and over twenty (20) site reviews.

## Conservation Activities

**Land Stewards** – Our volunteer citizen organization, Arlington Conservation Land Stewards (ACLS) has assisted in managing twenty-four (24) Town-owned conservation lands comprising approximately thirty (30) acres. Land stewards monitor, coordinate, and maintain (with permission from the ACC) conservation land of their choice, often in their immediate neighborhood or sometimes elsewhere in Town. Each land steward is provided with a stewardship handbook listing the location of conservation lands, conservation land regulations as well as problem/solution management information. The handbook was updated in 2014 and is available online at [www.arlingtonma.gov](http://www.arlingtonma.gov) at the Conservation webpage.

The group held a public meeting in October 2014, where topics of GIS mapping capabilities and the ACROSS Lexington trails program were discussed. The idea of an ACROSS Arlington trails program was also put forward.

In the spring, Cheryl Miller, Land Steward Coordinator, organized a project to identify and remove instances of invasive garlic mustard on conservation lands. Populations of garlic mustard were located and completely or partially removed on four sites. As part of the effort, Cheryl held a workshop on garlic mustard at McClennen Park, during which she, three volunteers, and one interested passerby pulled 52 pounds of garlic mustard! Future plans include identification and removal of black swallow-wort and vines (such as oriental bittersweet and English ivy), which are smothering trees.

**Mt. Gilboa** – A new message section was added to the kiosk by our land steward Suzanne McLeod where people can share nature haikus. New entrance signs were created and put up late fall of this year by Trevor Brown, Eagle Scout.

**Arlington's Great Meadows (AGM)** – In 2014, the Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows (FoAGM) continued their work enhancing the natural habitat and improving the visitor experience. This group has now been active for over ten years and more information is available at: [www.foagm.org](http://www.foagm.org).

The ACROSS Lexington program extended into East Lexington and included parts of Arlington's Great Meadows in its path system. There are two loop trails

C & D which are now well marked and extend to the Whipple Hill Conservation land and the Arlington Reservoir. <http://www.lexingtonma.gov/selectmen/committee/acrosslexington.cfm>

The trail markers, entrance signs and bikeway kiosk were updated as part of Liam Lanigan's Eagle Scout project. FoAGM continued with other regular maintenance including replacing broken and rotting boardwalk treads.

To maintain the upland entry meadow, FoAGM continued the mowing program. The work was done in the early fall to avoid interference with nesting birds and to minimize the impact on wildflowers.

FoAGM continue efforts to clear and maintain an approximately 100-yard stretch of AGM along the Minutemen Bikeway that had become densely overgrown with the invasive plant Japanese Knotweed. Over the last ten years, with volunteer labor and purely mechanical means, they have succeeded in keeping this area mostly knotweed-free, preserving a stunning view of the Meadows from the bikeway.

**Meadowbrook Park** - New entrance signs were created and posted by Trevor Brown, Eagle Scout. In May 2014, stewards, ACC members, and other volunteers carried out a cleanup of the conservation area. This park collects many items that wash down Mill Brook each year.

**Mystic Lakes-Mid-Lakes Fishway** – Herring and eel were counted by volunteers in the spring of 2014 where the Mystic River Watershed Association estimated that 239,059 (+/- 37,288) fish migrated through the dam's ladder, an increase in the count of the previous year.

**Mystic River Oil Spill Cleanup** - During 2014, the ACC actively participated in review of environmental data and reports submitted to the MassDEP that evaluated the impact of the Mystic River Oil Spill (which occurred in 2013) on the river environment. The Commission met with the Licensed Site Professional (LSP) from Clean Harbors, who was in charge of the cleanup, for additional information, which ultimately led to the determination that the cleanup had proceeded to completion such that the oil spill was no longer causing conditions that are a significant risk to public health or the environment. EkOngkar Khalsa, Executive Director of the Mystic River Watershed Association, expressed his thanks to the Commission for the care in which they reviewed the cleanup and NRD assessment process.

**Summer Street Woods Conservation Area** – The ACC, with the Arlington Land Trust, holds a Conservation Restriction over the approximately eight acres of parks and woodlands resulting from the recent redevelop-



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opment of the former Symmes Hospital site. The ACC with the ALT worked to resolve issues remaining from the construction of the housing and assisted living projects.

## 2015 Goals and Beyond

The ACC will continue to encourage, support and assist the various volunteer and environmental advocacy groups that are dedicated to preserving the Town's precious conservation lands and other open spaces within its immediate borders as well as those directly adjacent to it. These groups include, among others: Arlington Land Stewards, Arlington Land Trust, Open Space Committee, Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows, Mystic River Watershed Association, and the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions.

The ACC will continue to monitor the Conservation Restrictions it has in Town at the Summer Street Woods, Elizabeth Island, and Brantwood Street.

The ACC has formed two new working groups to organize efforts and analysis: the Waterbodies Assessment group and the Summer St Conservation Land group.

The ACC is leading a coordinated effort of the Town of Arlington, DCR, and the Mystic River Watershed Association in a Grant Application for a storm water restoration project on the Arlington side of the Upper Mystic River in response to the MassDEP NRD from the Mystic River oil spill settlement.

## Thanks

The ACC sincerely thanks all individuals and organizations that contributed directly or indirectly to the activities of its fiftieth (50th) year.

Many special thanks go to the scores of volunteers who came out for cleanup projects, assisted as land stewards or participated in the many Friends groups that work to preserve our natural resources and heritage.

## OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Arlington's Open Space Committee (OSC) was established by Town Meeting in 1996. Members are appointed by the Town Manager and include concerned citizens and representatives of key Town departments and commissions. The committee meets monthly to exchange ideas and discuss ways to protect and maintain the Town's open space and recreation resources. The committee serves an oversight function but does not have direct management responsibility for Town properties. Its main purpose is to enhance communication and coordination among those entities that do have ownership and management authority. In addition, the OSC seeks to raise broad-based community

concerns and to advocate for the protection, stewardship, and appropriate uses of the Town's open spaces.

## Open Space and Recreation Plan:

The committee's primary responsibility is to prepare and monitor the Town's official Open Space and Recreation Plan, review its provisions and goals, and document accomplishments. The current Plan originally covered the period 2007–2012, as approved in December 2007 by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) Division of Conservation Services (DCS). In February 2010 the state approved the two-year extension of an amended Action Plan (Chapter 9) through 2014.

During most of 2014, the committee members worked on updating the entire Plan to cover the period 2015–2022. In January 2014 the committee, through the Department of Planning and Community Development, submitted a request for CDBG funding to hire a consultant to help prepare the final report that will be submitted to the state for approval in early 2015. The CDBG request was approved by Town Meeting in May, and Ralph Willmer of the planning and design firm VHB was commissioned to assist the committee, as he did in 2007 for the current Plan.

One of the outreach efforts used to obtain community input for the new Plan was the Vision 2020 annual survey distributed with the Census mailing in January 2014. The featured questions asked about public awareness of some of the Town's smaller and lesser-known open spaces, reasons for visiting open spaces or not, perceptions about which open space and recreation resources are adequate or not, and preferred means of learning about these resources and related programs. Another key source of new information was the Town's Master Plan process, which held numerous public meetings and includes chapters that document open space and natural resources and public facilities and services, including recreation. In addition, Adam Kurowski, the Town's director of GIS and systems analyst, prepared many new town-wide maps and specific maps of key open spaces based on the new GIS database.

Printed copies of the current 2007–2014 Plan are available in the Robbins Library, Planning Department, Town Clerk's office, and certain other Town offices. The entire Plan is also available on the Town website at <http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/town-governance/all-boards-and-committees/open-space-committee/open-space-plans>. The new Plan for 2015–2022 will be posted online after it is approved.

## Other Activities:

The committee continued to monitor and contribute to a wide range of open space projects and activities that affect the Town and its residents' quality of life,

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including: endorsement of the Community Preservation Act, which will offer a new source of funds for open space and recreation resources; support for the state Department of Conservation and Recreation's completion of the Alewife Brook Greenway Path as part of the larger Alewife Reservation Master Plan; and the continued maintenance of the Wildlife Habitat Garden at the Arlington Reservoir. As a result of the Vision 2020 survey, the committee worked with staff of the *Arlington Advocate* to publish a series titled "Hidden Gems," which included maps and information about some of the lesser-known Town properties that were highlighted in the survey, such as Meadowbrook Park, Hill's Hill, Mt. Gilboa, and Cooke's Hollow.

Other timely issues addressed by the committee during 2014 included active participation in the Planning Department's Town-wide Master Plan process; various invasive plant and water bodies projects, such as the management of phragmites in Spy Pond and harvesting of water chestnuts in the Reservoir; the establishment of a new community farm at Busa Farm in Lexington, adjacent to the Arlington Reservoir and other Town-owned open space; and expansion of the ACROSS Lexington trail system into Arlington's Great Meadows and the Reservoir, in coordination with the Conservation Commission. The redevelopment of the Symmes site includes nearly nine acres of public open space in two landscaped parks and a woodland area that are accessible to all residents and are protected under a conservation restriction managed by the Arlington Land Trust and the Town's Conservation Commission.

Ongoing open space concerns include the status of the Mugar property in East Arlington due to potential flooding and traffic problems if the land were to be developed; the loss of public access at the Arlington Catholic High School practice field due to expanded fencing around new artificial turf; and improving maintenance of and access to all Town open spaces in general, for all ages and abilities. The committee's previous work on researching and raising awareness about Mill Brook and the possibility of enhancing that natural resource corridor has been adopted as a priority by the Arlington Redevelopment Board and is featured as a recommendation in the Master Plan.

As part of its community education goals, OSC participated in EcoFest in March and Town Day in September, as it does each year. The OSC booths displayed maps of local open spaces, copies of the Open Space and Recreation Plan and the Mill Brook report, flyers about invasive plants and the Conservation Commission's Land Stewards Program, and a sign-up sheet for residents interested in getting more involved.

## Goals for 2015:

Following completion and distribution of the 2015–2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan early in

the year, the committee will begin to work on a few new projects, including expanded use of the Town website to disseminate the new maps and other information about local open spaces and recreational facilities. Members will continue their collaborations with other Town entities and community groups to advocate for the proper maintenance and management of the Town's valuable open space and recreation resources. In particular, members will work with the Master Plan Advisory Committee and Planning Department to ensure that open space and recreation recommendations are fully incorporated into all future Town planning.

## TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

The goal of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) is to improve the quality of life in Arlington by improving safety, mobility, and access for people using all modes of transportation, and contribute to improving the environment and public health. In this effort, the TAC works closely with the Arlington Police Department's Traffic Division, the Public Works Department, and the Planning Department, along with the Arlington Schools and Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee.

The Traffic Authority for Arlington is the Board of Selectmen. The TAC was established by the Board of Selectmen 2001 to advise them on transportation matters. Resident and business members of the Committee at the end of 2014 were: John Hurd (Chamber of Commerce), Melissa Laube, Jeff Maxtutis (Vice Chair), Marjorie Moores, Howard Muise (Chair), Jeanette Rebecchi, Scott Smith, and Town Staff members Officer Corey Rateau (Police), Wayne Chouinard (Public Works), and Laura Wiener (Planning, Committee Secretary). Seth Federspiel, Cary Conrad and Victor Rivas are Associate (non-voting) members.

## Major Activities

Arlington Schools: Working with the Safe Routes to Schools program, the TAC continues its multiyear plan to improve pedestrian safety around schools. Phase 1, providing inexpensive safety improvements (paint and signs) for the public elementary schools, is complete. This effort included designating and improving preferred walking routes, reducing conflicts between students and autos during drop-off and pick-up periods, and designating 20 MPH School Zones. Phase 2 is underway and requires more expensive infrastructure improvements such as adding or repairing sidewalks and wheelchair ramps along the preferred walking routes and improving traffic flow for drop-off and pick-up. Also underway is an effort to improve the pedestrian environment and traffic flow around the Ottoson Middle School.

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**Crosswalk Flag Program** - TAC continued to maintain the pedestrian crossing flag program near elementary schools, to provide more visibility for students crossing busy streets on the way to school. The program has expanded to a total of eight locations around town. The program is now being funded by the Arlington Schools. TAC also developed Flag Program Guidelines for determining new locations this year.

**Arlington Center Safe Travel Project** - Working with the Planning Department, DPW and the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee (ABAC), the Town will receive funds from MassDOT to improve connection of the Minuteman Bikeway through Arlington Center, as well as improving safety and mobility for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians at the intersection of Route 60 and Mass Ave. Goals include providing a safe and visible bikeway connection through the intersection, reducing the crossing distance for pedestrians, and reducing congestion and wait time for vehicles. Project design was completed this year, with construction anticipated to begin in 2015.

**Jason Street Cut –Through Traffic, Phase 1:** TAC coordinated with neighborhood residents and held a public meeting to present existing transportation conditions and identify issues and potential solutions. Phase 1 recommendations that have been implemented, including additional parking, crosswalk, and intersection signage and crosswalk pavement markings. Phase 2 is now underway and will identify additional infrastructure improvements on Jason Street.

**Lake Street Corridor Recommendations** - TAC completed a comprehensive analysis of the Lake Street Corridor and submitted a report to the Selectmen in December. The recommendations include providing a new signal at the Bikeway coordinated with the existing signal at Brooks Avenue; signal improvements at Brooks Avenue; signage and pavement markings; handicap access improvements; and vegetation maintenance. The TAC will be discussing the recommendations with the Selectmen in early 2015.

**Lowell Street Improvements** - The TAC along with the DPW and APD implemented additional safety improvements on Lowell Street adjacent to the Town Reservoir. These included new pedestrian crosswalk signs, traffic warning signs, reflectorized sign posts, and pedestrian flags. The TAC is currently working with the neighborhood to evaluate additional measures to reduce traffic speed and improve safety in this area.

## Reports

TAC studied and adopted recommendations to the Board of Selectmen on the following:

Jason Street Cut-through Traffic, Phase 1  
Stop sign at Prospect and Hillside  
Four way stop at Gray and Oakland  
Lake Street Corridor Recommendations  
Downing Square Signage

## BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2014 was a banner year for bicycling in Arlington. As a bronze-level Bike Friendly Committee, we continue to see increased interest in bicycling for both transportation and recreation. The Minuteman Path is as popular as ever, the bike racks at Alewife Station are packed (primarily with bikes from Arlington residents), bike racks at the Hardy and Thompson schools are packed and more and more bicycles can be seen parked in Arlington Center, the Heights and in East Arlington. It was also a banner year for new infrastructure as the Mass Ave Corridor project finally began, bike lanes or shared lane markings were striped on Mass Ave from the Center to the Lexington Town Line, and the Arlington Center Safe Travel project reached the final design stage.

Throughout the year, the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee (ABAC) worked hard to improve awareness and safety of cycling. ABAC worked on the following issues and projects:

- ABAC received the completed report on the project "Navigating the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway", which was prepared for the Towns of Arlington, Bedford and Lexington by Toole Design Group.
- The Tri-community Bikeway group has met twice and is working to unify policies and cooperative efforts along the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway. We discussed responses and implementation strategies for Navigating the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway Report. In particular, a working group was established to determine the types of signage needed along the bikeway. Also discussed were the various tools available to communicate to users of the Bikeway with regards to issues such as hazards (such as snow and ice) and Bikeway closures due to construction work.
- ABAC has established a working relationship with Arlington's new COBWEB police detail. We feel that this is an important step forward to help improve the relationship between cyclists, pedestrians and other roadway users.

ABAC received support from Boston law firm



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Breakstone, White & Gluck PC to hand out bike helmets for children; this was done at school bike education programs, at Town Day at the ICanShine bike camp and at a bike safety workshop for 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders at the Thompson School. We feel that the promotion of safety is a key issue for ABAC to concentrate its efforts on. This year we will again be handing out 100 free helmets to kids at Town Day thanks to the generosity of Breakstone, White & Gluck PC.

We again held our annual events to promote bicycling:

*BikeArlington Tour* - which this year was well attended because of good weather and effective promotion. We were happy to be accompanied by one of the Selectmen and his family and have the assistance of an officer from APD.

*Town Day* - we again manned a booth at Town Day and talked to many people about cycling in Arlington and discussed many of the issues that come up every year. This was in addition to handing out free bike helmets for children.

*Winter Social* - our annual winter bike social, held at the Arlington Center for the Arts, provided a good opportunity to meet old friends and interact in an informal setting with like colleagues from Arlington and surrounding communities.

*Bikeway Cleanup* - In Spring 2014, we organized a bikeway cleanup. From this event, we have prepared a list of possible locations of trash receptacles along the Bikeway.

*Bikeway Counts* - ABAC members also supported the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization bicycle counting program with several counts conducted on the Minuteman Bikeway in Arlington.

Members of ABAC have worked with TAC to create road-marking guidelines for DPW's Engineering Division.

During National Bike Month in May, ABAC members participated in "Breakfast on the Bikeway" with the 128 Business Council.

## ARLINGTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Arlington Housing Authority is proud of its distinction of being the largest single provider of affordable housing in the community.

The Arlington Housing Authority manages 1,156 housing units: 520 units for elderly and/or residents with disabilities, 180 units designated for family housing, a home for 13 mentally challenged residents, and 422 vouchers that help participants live in privately-owned dwellings throughout the community.

The Authority is a quasi-governmental agency that

administers these programs sponsored by the state or federal government. Properties owned by the Authority are exempt from local property taxes, yet the Authority annually pays the maximum "in lieu of" taxes as allowed by state statute.



## Board of Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners of the Authority is the policy making body of the agency. The five members of the Arlington Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners are: *Chairman*, Bridgett James, *Vice-Chairman*, Nicholas Mitropoulos and *Members*, Richard B. Murray and Gaar Talanian, Daniel Brosnan

The Executive Director, John J. Griffin, is appointed by the Board of Commissioners and manages the day-to-day operations of the Authority.



Daniel Brosnan



Nick Mitropoulos



Bridgett James



Richard Murray



Gaar Talanian



John J. Griffin,  
Executive Director

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## Year in Review

In 2014 the AHA continued modernization work to all of its buildings, as well as the continued expansion of its tenant services support programs, and worked on creative partnerships with many housing groups and service providers in the community. The Arlington Housing Authority continues to utilize all funding resources provided through federal, state and local sources. It is considered a top performer by HUD and state agencies for their ability to work with other agencies, organizations and contractors to design, bid, award and complete projects that increase the value of its portfolio as well as provide necessary improvements that benefit all residents.

Below are a few highlights of successful projects at each building.

### *Cusack Terrace*

Modernization projects that were completed during 2014 included replacement of all the old smoke detectors with new hard wired smokes. All the kitchen stoves were replaced with new, energy efficient models. Dumpsters were replaced at the site and new carpeting was installed in the common areas. Residents also received new gym equipment to assist with living a healthy and active lifestyle.

Current projects include replacing an old generator with a new efficient system and replacing windows. These projects are within the AHA goals of creating more energy efficient buildings. This will lead to reduced costs, and increased value as well as an improvement to resident's lives.

### *Chestnut Manor*

Modernization projects that were completed during 2014 include replacing the roof and replacing all old smoke detectors. Residents also received new gym equipment to assist with living a healthy and active lifestyle. Current projects include designing and building a new handicap access ramp at the front of the building. This ramp will also include a new patio and landscaping for the tenants. Future projects for Chestnut Manor include parking lot repaving and interior improvements to units such as kitchen and balcony upgrades.

### *Winslow Towers*

Modernization projects that were completed in 2014 include upgrading the laundry room, replacing the mailboxes, and updating the smoke detector system. Residents also received new gym equipment to assist with living a healthy and active lifestyle. Upcoming projects include replacing the roof, upgrading the elevator, and replacing the generator to a more energy efficient system.

### *Drake Village and the Hauser Building*

Modernization projects that were completed in 2014 include site work, paving and dumpster replacement. Residents also received new gym equipment to assist with living a healthy and active lifestyle. Upcoming projects include replacing the roof, and interior unit work including updating kitchen and baths, and windows. These will result in lower energy costs and an improvement to the comfort and safety of our residents.

### *Menotomy Manor*

Modernization projects that were completed in 2014 included the continued site work featuring new paving and landscaping across the development. Current projects include replacing all smoke and carbon monoxide detector systems and converting the hot water systems to new efficient models.

### *Community Partnerships*

The AHA staff continues to work closely with the Local Tenant Organizations that are represented at each building. They meet monthly and are able to communicate any ideas, concerns, or issues to staff. It also allows the staff to receive input on future projects or funding opportunities. The LTO's are a vital part of each building. They host parties, activities, coordinate food delivery, among other important tasks.

The Authority continued to take advantage of the Community Work Program (CWP) sponsored by the Middlesex Sheriff's Office. Under the supervision of correctional personnel, inmates assisted the AHA maintenance staff in its spring and fall cleanup efforts.

Minuteman Senior Services continues to be a successful partnership between the AHA. They provide numerous services to our residents including, health education, food delivery, home care, nursing, among others.

The Arlington Boys and Girls Club and Fidelity House continued afternoon programs in our Menotomy Manor Development that provides homework help, games, and programs for our young residents of Menotomy Manor. This program has been extremely successful, with a large number of residents participating.

The award winning evening program, Operation Success, continues to be a major factor in improving grades by providing homework help and guidance for the residents of Menotomy Manor. Janet Maguire and Peggy Regan run this program with a large group of young volunteers.

The continued partnership between the AHA and the Arlington Police Department has had a positive effect on the residents and neighbors of Menotomy Manor. The AHA continues to see a large decrease in crime and expanded services to the area. The AHA and police held their annual National Night Out Cookout during the summer.

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The Arlington Housing Authority Board would like to thank all our partners for their hard work and we look forward to many new and exciting ideas being put into action in the coming year.

## Challenges Ahead

The Authority has been successful in maintaining building operations and looks forward to the coming years in expanding our programs and modernizing our buildings. While the AHA applies for all funding opportunities available, and utilizes 100% of the funds received, there is still a great deficit in the funding needed to ensure optimal quality of life for our residents. Also, the need for low income housing seems to only grow each year and the AHA does its best to provide as much adequate housing as possible. We will continue to meet the demand of our waiting list and aging portfolio with the resources we are provided in creative and innovative ways.

Because the AHA serves the lowest of income residents, 95% of them would not be able to afford the rent in the new affordable housing units being constructed in Town. On our current waitlist, over 80% of the applicants have income below \$10,000 and many receive only temporary assistance in the amount of \$3,000 per year. We greatly appreciate the efforts from the Town of Arlington in awarding us funds to continue to serve its neediest population.

## Administrative Services

Waiting lists for state-aided elderly/disabled and family public housing are open. Interested parties can find applications on our website, requesting by mail or in person at the office. The AHA continues to be a member of the MassNAHRO Centralized Section 8 Wait List program. Arlington residents or those who work in town are given a preference on all housing program waiting lists.

The AHA's website, [www.arlingtonhousing.org](http://www.arlingtonhousing.org) provides valuable information to those wishing to learn more about the AHA and its programs.

You may also become a fan of the Arlington Housing Authority on Facebook and Twitter.

## Wait Lists

*A waiting list update was conducted at the end of 2014 for our state public housing applicants, thus the numbers are less than previous years.*

### State-Aided Elderly/Handicap One Bedroom Units

Arlington Applicants:	83
Non-Arlington Applicants:	<u>177</u>
Total	260

### State-Aided Family 2-Bedroom Units

Arlington Applicants:	40
Non-Arlington Applicants:	<u>105</u>
Total	145

### State-Aided Family 3-Bedroom Units

Arlington Applicants:	11
Non-Arlington Applicants:	<u>52</u>
Total	63

### Section 8 Wait List

Arlington Applicants:	*626
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*\*Because Arlington is on a centralized wait list, the Section 8 wait list is extremely long; therefore, only Arlington residents are listed for this program.*

## State Program Rents

Average Elderly/Handicap Monthly Rent: \$406/month  
(includes utilities)

Average Family Monthly Rent: \$588/month  
(tenant pays utilities)

## Acknowledgments

The Arlington Housing Authority would like to thank all its employees for their dedication throughout the year.

## VISION 2020

### About Vision 2020

Vision 2020, established by Town Meeting in June 1992, is a committee of the Town of Arlington charged to "create, implement, monitor, and review methods for town-wide participation in the Vision 2020 process." The process brings together residents, Town employees and Town leaders to study ideas for creating the community envisioned in the Town Goals enacted by Town Meeting in 1993. The Standing Committee oversees projects of volunteer task groups that work in support of the goals and creates an annual survey to obtain data that Town entities can use for planning. Results of the survey are provided to Town Meeting and posted on the website.

Vision 2020's task groups support goals related to: Business, Communication, Community and Citizen Service, Culture and Recreation, Diversity, Education,



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Environment, Fiscal Resources, and Governance. Task group information can be found at <http://www.arlingtonma.gov/vision2020>.

## Notable Activities

2014 was a year of change and achievements for Vision 2020. For the first time, the annual Town Survey had a thirty-four percent return rate—6,536 completed surveys—and a streamlined approach to early analysis of responses allowed participating organizations to take actions based on the information collected before Vision 2020's report was presented to Town Meeting in May.

In addition, Vision 2020 requested and received a small budget that allowed us to print materials for meetings and events, pay fees for Town Hall use, reimburse Task Group leaders for out-of-pocket expenses, replace aging equipment, and pay for unanticipated operating costs. Use of the organization's event tents increased as Task Groups expanded outreach by attending more Town fairs and events.

## Annual Vision 2020 Survey

The 2014 Vision 2020 Annual Survey, "Help Shape the Future: Arlington's Library, Open Spaces, and Household Waste Programs" was mailed to every household as an insert to the Town's Annual Census mailing in January. As the response rate has increased, Vision 2020 focused on developing procedures to make question development a collaborative, interactive process with the Town organizations involved to ensure well-defined goals and efficient reporting of the results. Vision 2020 worked with three town organizations that were either developing long-range plans or fulfilling a State-mandated planning requirement: the Arlington Library, including Robbins Library and the Fox Branch Library; the Open Space Committee, and the Department of Public Works-Household Waste Program.

Some data and comments were available to organizations within weeks of the initial survey returns. This enabled them to use the data early in their planning efforts and to take actions in response to incoming comments from survey respondents. Survey results helped each group enhance planning, validate their responses to community needs, and take action where needed. Examples of early applications of the 2014 survey findings appear in the *2014-15 Recycling and Trash Guide*, in the minutes of the Library's presentation at the 2014 Town Meeting, and in Open Space articles in *The Arlington Advocate*.

Household responses received by March 17, were summarized and reported to Town Meeting, Town officials, departments, and Board of Selectmen. The summary report of the 2014 survey follows this section of the Annual Report; full analysis can be found on the Vision 2020 webpage [arlingtonma.gov/vision2020](http://arlingtonma.gov/vision2020).

## Additional Activities

- With the Arlington League of Women Voters, co-sponsored the annual Candidates' Night program.
- Sponsored Warrant Article 39 (Water Bodies Fund) for the 2014 Annual Town Meeting to appropriate \$50,000 to the Town's Water Body Fund for the maintenance, treatment, and oversight of the Town's water bodies.
- Spy Pond and Reservoir Committees worked with the DPW and Conservation Commission to continue efforts to remove water chestnuts from the Arlington Reservoir, and plan for the ongoing management of Arlington's water bodies
- At Town Day, used demonstrations, calendar sales, and interactive activities to inform and educate the public about Arlington matters, and to attract new Task Group members. Diversity, Fiscal Resources, Governance, Public Art, and all Environmental Task Groups were represented.
- Continued organization improvement activities including development of procedures and guidelines for Vision 2020's major activities/events, development and implementation of Vision 2020's first budget, discussions about the long-term goals of Vision 2020 and improvements in processes and outreach efforts.

*Diversity:* The Task Group meets regularly during the year to engage residents on a wide range of issues and provides ongoing leadership to the Superintendent's Diversity Advisory Committee, advocating for recruiting, employing and retaining staff of color in the Arlington Public Schools.

The We Are Arlington Conversation series, initiated last year, continued in 2014 to provide forums for exploration and discussion of sensitive diversity topics: "We are many races," "When faced with injustices,"—in collaboration with Arlington Reads Together events at Robbins Library—"We are many spiritualities and faiths," and "We are many social classes." Conversations employed a variety of formats for dialog; attendance ranged from 26 to 30.

At Town Day, invited children to create mandalas with colored rice and offered a diverse array of finger puppets to visitors to the booth.

As part of expanded outreach and publicity during the year, Co-chair Bonie Williamson and past Co-chair Miriam Stein discussed the purpose of the Task Group and its work in an interview on ACMI Cable TV.

Because of disturbing events in Ferguson, Mo., and Staten Island, N.Y., Diversity opened its December meeting to other groups concerned with social justice,

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the Police Chief, clergy, and concerned residents to discuss what steps town groups might take together to address issues raised by these events. After identifying expectations, concerns, and goals for a series of responses, the group decided to hold a peaceful side-walk vigil on Sunday, December 14. Vigil planners, from Diversity and several other town organizations, worked with Chief Ryan to plan a peaceful event, inform the wider community, and assure the safety of those who would participate. An estimated 400 people attended the vigil, which included sign-making at First Parish Unitarian Universalist where Arlington Police Department officers met residents. Stories and video clips about the vigil appeared in local press, the Boston Globe, Channel 5 TV, and Youtube. Town groups planned to collaborate on next steps in taking actions and offering events to address needs.

**Governance:** Presented an Orientation for New Town Meeting Members, led by Town Moderator John Leone.

**Fiscal Resources:** The Task Group researches topics and reports results and recommendations to the appropriate department or officials. In 2014 the following topics were addressed:

**Financial Sustainability** – The group is currently undertaking review of commercial land assessments to insure that commercial land values are both consistent and in line with residential land values in town. The review will continue during 2015 and will include analysis of using development to decrease Arlington's structural deficit.

**Financial Transparency** – Reviewed the FY2014 Town's Financial Plan and provided written and verbal comments to the Manager's office. This process served to educate task group members on this and related financial documents. The plan is to review Town Financial Plans on a bi-annual basis to insure that this excellent document continues to improve.

**Arlington Visual Budget** – Reviewed the Arlington Visual Budget online tool and provided written and verbal comments relating to clarity and usefulness. The goal is to review and comment on these materials on a bi-annual basis.

**Financial Organization** – Resumed our periodic review of the Town's Financial Organizational Structure, an issue the group has raised many times. The recent upheaval in the Assessor office and Board of Assessors makes the review timely. It is expected that analysis of this complex topic will continue during 2015.

**Arlington's Master Plan** – Reviewed and provided written comments with a focus on smart growth promoting zoning and developmental aspects on the initial and revised drafts of the master plan document.

**Warrant Article Presentation Order** – With an

eye to improving the functioning of town meeting, the group proposed revision of the order in which warrant articles are taken up during town meeting. The concept was to have perfunctory and citizen sponsored articles be among the first ones taken up by the body thereby permitting the meeting to get its processes fully 'established' before moving onto more substantive matters. The plan is to revisit the issue in 2015.

**Education:** The Task Group was re-launched in February with a broad goal to work with Town Leaders, School Committee members and School Administrators to develop policy ideas that advance Arlington Public Schools.

Projects during the year included hosting School Committee Member Jeff Thielman and Arlington Education Association President Linda Hansen at meetings, enjoying a dedicated tour of the high school led by Superintendent Bodie, and interviewing the district math coordinator to understand new initiatives being implemented in the schools. The committee collaborated with School Administrators and School Committee members in developing questions for the 2015 Vision 2020 Survey and a separate survey of parents done by the school district.

**Arlington Public Art (APA):** The Committee began the year with a retreat featuring Cecily Miller. Miller was Executive Director of two highly regarded arts organizations in the Boston area, and she developed a wide variety of imaginative programming designed to celebrate the distinctive character and culture of two fascinating, and very different, places: the city of Somerville and historic Forest Hills Cemetery.

APA forged new territory this year with a temporary public art exhibition in a local park. Art Rocks Menotomy was sponsored by Arlington Recreation, a very fortuitous collaboration for APA. The exhibit featured ten works of art by local and regional artists, and was on view 24/7 during the month of May.

The first phase of the Transformer Mural Box project began over the summer. Six electrical transformer boxes in prominent locations in Arlington Center were fancifully painted by artists. Phase II will take place in the summer of 2015 when six more boxes will be creatively transformed.

In July APA held the third annual Chairful Where You Sit event that featured more than 100 chairs created by community members and purchased for \$100 each by supporters. The event raised \$9000 and allows the Committee to make new connections and strengthen and build on existing support for public art in Arlington.

**Reservoir Committee:** The Wildlife Habitat Garden had its fourth growing season. Some plants such as the grasses did very well and needed thinning, while a few

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bare spots needed more plantings. The Committee had a number of workdays and help from many volunteers at those events and on their own. A new kiosk was added to the garden area to provide more information about the plants and animals in the garden. The garden is for the entire community. The Committee welcomes schools, recreational groups, and others to participate in its growth.

The “island” in the parking lot was planted with a number of new or transplanted shrubs and wildflowers. A major project with the help of many volunteers from a local Mormon congregation, was the cutting back of the invasive Japanese Knotweed along the path from the parking lot to the garden to make the area more open and inviting. A possible future project is clearing the wooded area along Lowell Street next to LexFarm which is currently overrun with many invasives.

Water chestnut harvesting continued in the summer under the management of DPW. In future years, the volume should be less because the harvesting removes the seeds that produce new plants. This work was funded by the Arlington Water Bodies Fund, as approved by Town Meeting. However, the Committee sponsored additional hand harvesting to clean up along the edges near the southern end near the habitat garden and similar work is likely to continue in future years.

More information about the projects, along with photos, can be found at the Reservoir website: <http://www.arlington2020.org/reservoir/>.

*Sustainable Arlington:* The Committee encourages environmental awareness on the part of residents and Town government. Two members serve on the Town Manager’s Energy Working Group. Special projects this year:

- Coordinated planning for the well-attended EcoFest 2014, “Rethink Recycling! Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose,” (650+ attendees)
- Began planning for EcoFest 2015, “Energy-wise: Sparking Local Solutions,” March 7, 2015
- helped Arlington’s True Story Theater obtain an Arlington Cultural Council grant to support a performance connected to EcoFest 2015
- Collaborated with True Story Theater and Food Link on a performance called “Stories of Food”
- Co-sponsored Spring and Fall classes at Arlington Community Education focusing on soil health, environmentally supportive gardening and lawn care practices, and growing your own food (edible gardens)
- Publicized Alewife Flood Plain flooding issues, including the potential flooding impacts of clear-cutting the adjacent Silver Maple Forest in preparation for a 300-unit building project.

*Spy Pond Committee:* The path between Rt. 2 and Spy Pond is frequently used by dog walkers, fishermen, bicycle commuters, explorers, and around-Spy Pond-walkers. On Trails Day, the Committee and the Appalachian Mountain Club installed steps from the stone bench to the lakeshore. The project will be finished next year. A new fence was built around the outfall structure between Spy Pond and Little Pond in cooperation with MassDOT.

The Committee held a June barbeque to honor Nancy Flynn at for her many years of service through the Spy Pond Association. In 1960, the Association worked with the Department of Health to clean up the pond after many years of decline. Flynn’s archives provided a fascinating view into Spy Pond history.

The Sonar treatment in 2013 helped keep the pond free of surface weeds. A clean pond was particularly important to the Arlington Belmont Crew who won the State Championship.

A few other items of note: Kate Barvick filmed the co-chairs for her presentation on Spy Pond; Ottoson students, Kate and Ella, presented their proposal for Sodium Chloride/Calcium Chloride pre-mix; at EcoFest, the Committee auctioned a pair of curbing stones from the Symmes property; volunteers distributed a redesigned fertilizer flyer to 3000 households; planning began for the Family Fun Day and Spy Pond Splash on May 30, 2015.



*Reservoir Garden Volunteers April 2014*

- Participated in Sustainable Middlesex, a regional group of community sustainability organizations exchanging information and resources related to mitigating and adapting to climate change



## **Special Recognition / Leadership Changes**

Vision 2020 thanks all the volunteers who help support and achieve the Town Goals. The Standing Committee is especially grateful to Josh Lobel and Joey Glushko for their significant and outstanding contributions of time and talents to the production and analysis of the Town Census Insert Survey over many years. Their many hours of work have been vital to the survey effort.

Out-going Vision 2020 Co-chairs Brucie Moulton and Mary Harrison conducted discussions with Task Group Chairs to learn how they saw Vision 2020's work currently and in the future, to determine needed changes in organization operations, and outline the qualities and abilities needed in new leaders. This information drove the development of a Co-chair job description and request for applicants, which were sent to Standing Committee Members, Town leaders, and the Arlington Advocate. Juli Brazile assumed leadership in July. Outgoing Co-chairs provide consultation and assistance as requested.

Bonie Williamson became Co-chair of Diversity Task Group.

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To: Town Meeting Members and Town Officials

From: Vision 2020 Standing Committee and Task Groups

Co-Chairs: Brucie Moulton and Mary Harrison

Adria Arch, Brad Barber, Kathleen Bodie, Claire Carswell, Adam Chapdelaine, Joe Connelly, Dan Dunn, Andrew Fischer, Bruce Fitzsimmons, Danuta Forbes, David Garbarino, Joey Glushko, Leba Heigham, Jane Howard, Gordon Jamieson, Elizabeth Karpati, John Leone, Josh Lobel, Gail McCormick, Cheryl Miller, Angela Olszewski, Stephen Ricci, Michael Stern, David White, Bonie Williamson

Date: May 7, 2014

Subject: Vision 2020 Report to the 2014 Annual Town Meeting

The Vision 2020 Standing Committee and its Task Groups are pleased to present this report on their projects and activities for 2013, Warrant Article 39, and the 2014 Annual Survey, "Help Shape the Future: Arlington's Library, Open Spaces, and Household Waste Programs." Complete survey results and analysis will be available on the Town website this summer. Initial data tables follow this introduction.

Details of the work Vision 2020 has performed on behalf of the Town of Arlington during 2013 appear in:

- The Town's 2014 Annual Report, pages 96-105, which briefly reviews Vision 2020's history, describes specific Standing Committee and Task Group accomplishments in 2013, and includes results of the 2013 Vision 2020 Annual Survey, "Collaborative Arlington: Exchanging Information, Working Together." Findings from that survey have been cited in recent online discussions about pre-Town Meeting Community meetings.
- The Finance Committee's Report to the 2014 Annual Town Meeting, which shows their recommended vote for Warrant Article 39 (Water Bodies Fund) and the inclusion of Vision 2020 in Warrant Article 35 (Appropriation/ Committees and Commissions).

Vision 2020 is in transition as an organization. Its reexamination of its purposes, processes, and leadership structures continues during 2014. The 2014 town survey is a successful example of a new Vision 2020 process. The survey focused on three town organizations -- the Library, Open Space Committee, and the DPW -- that are engaged in long range planning. Vision 2020 collaborated with these organizations to develop survey questions and a process for sharing survey findings on a biweekly to monthly basis as surveys came in. Since January, Vision 2020 has been providing comments from the surveys and initial trend data to these organizations.

Underlining the benefits of this approach, Library Director Ryan Livergood said, "The Library is implementing data received from the Vision 2020 survey into our new Strategic Plan. We believe the information we gathered from the Vision 2020 survey will help us to improve the library experience for everyone in our community." Speaking for the Department of Public Works, Charlotte Milan, Recycling Coordinator, said "We can use this information to inform how we improve outreach to residents and continue to build positive recycling habits while reducing solid waste costs for the town." The Open Space Committee has already initiated a series of Arlington Advocate articles which will feature open space sites, starting with those the survey identified as having high percents of "Don't Know About" responses. Ann LeRoyer, Chair of the Open Space Committee, said, "The survey is bearing immediate direct results in terms of community education, and it will be incorporated into the next Open Space Plan for posterity." In addition to providing timely data to the town, this year's survey also achieved a 34% return rate, a Vision 2020 record. Of the 19,383 surveys mailed out with the census, 6,536 completed surveys were returned by the March 17 deadline. We deeply appreciate residents' participation.

As part of its revisioning and revitalization efforts, Vision 2020 has conducted an internal survey, developed a leadership team job description, and initiated a search for new leaders.

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## Vision 2020 Annual Survey Results for 2014

### Demographics

Total Responses:  
6,536

#### Precinct

	#	%
Pct. 1	235	3.6%
Pct. 2	310	4.7%
Pct. 3	304	4.7%
Pct. 4	308	4.7%
Pct. 5	272	4.2%
Pct. 6	317	4.9%
Pct. 7	304	4.7%
Pct. 8	347	5.3%
Pct. 9	315	4.8%
Pct. 10	318	4.9%
Pct. 11	311	4.8%
Pct. 12	344	5.3%
Pct. 13	290	4.4%
Pct. 14	295	4.5%
Pct. 15	296	4.5%
Pct. 16	286	4.4%
Pct. 17	286	4.4%
Pct. 18	297	4.5%
Pct. 19	317	4.9%
Pct. 20	296	4.5%
Pct. 21	320	4.9%
No Response	168	2.6%

#### Household includes children < 18

	#	%
Under 18 yrs	1,933	29.6%

#### Household includes 18-29 year olds

	#	%
18-29 yrs	1,009	15.4%

#### Household includes 30-44 year olds

	#	%
30-44 yrs	2,119	32.4%

#### Household includes 45-54 year olds

	#	%
45-54 yrs	1,708	26.1%

#### Household includes 55-64 year olds

	#	%
55-64 yrs	1,543	23.6%

#### Household includes 65-74 year olds

	#	%
65-74 yrs	1,122	17.2%

#### Household includes 75+ year olds

	#	%
75+ yrs	993	15.2%

#### Years in Arlington<sup>1</sup>

	#	%
<5	1,605	24.6%
6-15 yrs	1,748	26.7%
16-25 yrs	1,028	15.7%
26-40 yrs	872	13.3%
40+ yrs	1,180	18.1%
No Response	103	1.6%

#### Housing Type

	#	%
Single family	3,347	51.2%
2-family	1,806	27.6%
3-8 unit bldg	351	5.4%
9+ unit bldg	715	10.9%
No Response	317	4.9%

#### Own/Rent

	#	%
Rent	1,650	25.2%
Own	4,654	71.2%
No Response	232	3.5%

#### How many people are in your household?

	#	%
1-2 people	3,444	52.7%
3-4 people	2,213	33.9%
5-6 people	321	4.9%
7+ people	20	0.3%
No Response	538	8.2%



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## Arlington's Libraries - Robbins Library and the Fox Branch Library

The Library is developing a long-range plan to improve services to the community and to anticipate changing needs.

The %'s shown on this page represent the % of total responses for each question.

### How does the survey information benefit the Library?

According to Andrea Nicolay, Assistant Director of the Library, "The timing of the 2014 survey couldn't have been better for the Library because we were in the process of developing our new Strategic Plan just as the valuable Census survey results were rolling in." Director Ryan Livergood said, "The Library is implementing data received from the Vision 2020 survey into our new Strategic Plan. We believe the information we gathered from the Vision 2020 survey will help us to improve the Library experience for everyone in our community."

How likely is it that your household would use these Library services?

	#			%		
	likely	very likely	not likely	likely	very likely	not likely
Check out books	1,512	3,454	1,263	24%	55%	20%
Attend technology/computer trainings	1,049	338	4,578	18%	6%	77%
Use study/meeting rooms	1,509	568	3,888	25%	10%	65%
Download eBooks/eAudioBooks	1,976	1,545	2,447	33%	26%	41%
Use Arlington/regional history resources	1,686	440	3,835	28%	7%	64%
Borrow museum passes	2,294	1,523	2,243	38%	25%	37%
Attend library-sponsored events/programs	2,635	1,015	2,378	44%	17%	39%
Attend book discussion groups	1,165	284	4,502	20%	5%	76%
Use a makerspace with a 3D printer	1,057	413	4,403	18%	7%	75%
Use Library databases	2,110	1,234	2,648	35%	21%	44%
Use Library social media (Facebook, blog)	698	222	5,012	12%	4%	84%
Request an item from another library	1,663	2,414	2,029	27%	40%	33%

How frequently do people in your household use the Library?

		Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	Never	Just started
In Person:	#	75	1,549	2,331	1,169	1,007	211
	%	1%	24%	37%	18%	16%	3%
Online:	#	106	970	1,494	721	1,997	225
	%	2%	18%	27%	13%	36%	4%

What would increase your use of the library

	#	%
More hours	1,625	14%
Summer weekend hours	2,084	18%
Add. popular materials	949	8%
More entertaining programs	975	9%
Variety of useful programs	1,278	11%
More downloadable content	1,441	13%
Better parking	2,599	23%
Additional locations	413	4%

Has your household used the Library as a place to stay:

	No		Yes	
	#	%	#	%
Warm:	5,728	96%	213	4%
Cool:	4,406	84%	861	16%

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## Open Space Committee

Arlington's Open Space Committee is revising the Town's 2007-2014 Open Space and Recreation Plan to provide more current information and to fulfill a requirement of the State Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Many of the Town's recreational areas and large open spaces (such as the Minuteman Bikeway, Spy Pond, Menotomy Rocks Park and Robbins Farm) are popular and well used, but a variety of smaller parks and natural areas are not as well known. To find the location of these parks, go to <http://arlingtonma.gov/maps> and click "Vision 2020 Map of Arlington".

### How does the survey benefit the Open Space Committee?

A review of Open Space data showed low use of some sites and high percents of "Don't Know About" responses. To address this, Open Space Committee has initiated a series of Arlington Advocate articles which will feature open space sites, starting with the least known sites. According to Ann LeRoyer, Chair of the Open Space Committee, "The survey is immediately bearing direct results in terms of community education, and it will be incorporated into the next Open Space Plan for posterity!"

The following questions are designed to create better awareness of and access to all open spaces and recreational facilities.

Have any household members visited any of these open spaces?

	#			%		
	No	Yes	Don't know about	No	Yes	Don't know about
Arlington's Great Meadows (in East Lexington)	1,832	2,776	1,434	30%	46%	24%
Meadowbrook Park	2,110	837	2,866	36%	14%	49%
Mill Brook	2,026	1,775	2,044	35%	30%	35%
Cooke's Hollow	1,983	548	3,227	34%	10%	56%
Mt. Gilboa	2,207	901	2,679	38%	16%	46%
Turkey Hill	2,370	1,577	1,926	40%	27%	33%
Ottoson Woods/Crusher Lot	2,306	930	2,539	40%	16%	44%
Summer St. Multigenerational Park	1,912	1,708	2,266	32%	29%	38%
Hill's Hill	1,878	1,117	2,818	32%	19%	48%
Window on the Mystic	1,879	624	3,225	33%	11%	56%
Alewife Greenway Path	1,575	3,595	861	26%	60%	14%
Reservoir Path and Wildlife Habitat Garden	1,598	2,623	1,730	27%	44%	29%

Does the Town have an adequate # of these resources?

	#		%	
	No	Yes	No	Yes
Children's playgrounds	495	4,864	9%	91%
Tennis courts	1,334	3,685	27%	73%
Neighborhood parks	922	4,526	17%	83%
Natural areas/nature trails	1,645	3,715	31%	69%
Community gardens	2,663	2,414	52%	48%
Outdoor/indoor swimming	3,552	1,817	66%	34%
Off leash dog recreation areas	1,583	3,452	31%	69%
Outdoor ice skating	2,733	2,302	54%	46%
Indoor ice skating	998	4,109	20%	80%
Walking/bike trails	1,108	4,461	20%	80%

Does your household use Arlington's open spaces and recreational facilities?

	#	%
No	1,501	23%
Yes	4,631	71%
No Response	404	6%

If No, then why not?

	#	%
Don't know about locations and programs	907	26%
Don't know about open spaces in our neighborhood	600	18%
Not interested in outdoor recreation and competitive sports	407	12%
Not aware of opportunities for casual, non-competitive recreational activities	569	17%
Can't access due to disability barriers	208	6%
Not convenient to travel to and park at some locations	362	11%
Not interested open spaces, in general	372	11%

## Vision 2020 Annual Survey Results for 2014

How do you prefer to learn about open space and recreational resources/programs? (Fill up to three bubbles)

	#	%
On-line sources (Arlington List, Patch, Wicked Local, Your Arlington)	2,272	20%
Arlington Recreation or Town websites	3,605	32%
Signage/announcement at a given site	1,139	10%
Seasonal Arlington Rec brochures	2,330	21%
Arlington Advocate (print media)	1,941	17%



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## Public Works - Household Waste Program

The Town would like to know more about your residential trash, recycling, and yard waste practices in order to continue to update and improve the recovery of **recyclable and reusable** materials.

### How does the survey benefit the Department of Public Works?

Speaking for the Department of Public Works, Charlotte Milan, Recycling Coordinator, said, "We can use this information to inform how we improve outreach to residents and continue to build positive recycling habits while reducing solid waste costs for the town."

The following questions are designed to create better understanding of waste disposal and recycling behavior.

How many 35-gallon equivalent bags or barrels of TRASH - not including recycling - does your household put out on the curb or in your building's dumpster each week, on average?

	#	%
One or fewer	4,322	68%
Two	1,553	24%
More than two	492	8%

How many RECYCLING CONTAINERS does your household put out on the curb each week, on average? (Fill in ONLY ONE bubble)

	#	%
One 16-gal bin	1,910	30%
More than one 16-gal bin	1,786	28%
One recycling barrel - 35 gal	1,087	17%
More than one 35-gal barrel	935	15%
Shared recycling totes	554	9%
Recycling not available	58	1%

What does your household do with YARD WASTE? (Fill in ALL answers that apply)

	#	%
Composted on the property	1,288	15%
Put on curb for Town collection, April - November	4,419	52%
Removed by a hired lawn service	1,230	15%
Handled by condo association/apartment building	900	11%
Kept on property	634	7%

What does your household do to dispose of FOOD WASTE? (Fill in ALL answers that apply)

	#	%
Include food waste with trash	4,477	46%
Compost some or all food waste at home	1,359	14%
Contract with a private company to take food waste for composting	43	0%
Use a garbage disposal	3,708	38%
Use a worm bin	69	1%

## Vision 2020 Annual Survey Results for 2014

### Public Works - Household Waste Program - TRASH

The Town would like to know more about your residential trash, recycling, and yard waste practices in order to continue to update and improve the recovery of **recyclable and reusable** materials.

#### Explanation of tables

These tables show how waste disposal and recycling practices vary for different demographic segments among survey respondents.

The percentages displayed indicate the % of that segment that provided a specific response. For instance 1,166 or 74% of households that have lived in Arlington <5 years put out one or fewer waste barrels per week. Percentages in most categories add to 100%.\*

#### How many waste barrels per week?

Housing type	One or fewer		Two		More than two	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Single family	2,291	69%	815	25%	202	6%
2-family	1,151	65%	479	27%	151	8%
3-8 unit bldg	242	71%	71	21%	27	8%
9+ unit bldg	456	70%	100	15%	91	14%

Number of people in household	One or fewer		Two		More than two	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
1-2 people	2,494	75%	611	18%	231	7%
3-4 people	1,374	63%	664	30%	155	7%
5-6 people	147	46%	117	37%	54	17%
7+people	2	11%	7	39%	9	50%

Years in Arlington	One or fewer		Two		More than two	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
<5	1,166	74%	338	21%	82	5%
6-15 yrs	1,200	70%	404	24%	102	6%
16-25 yrs	696	69%	239	24%	68	7%
26-40 yrs	558	65%	215	25%	84	10%
40+ yrs	640	57%	332	30%	152	14%

Own/rent	One or fewer		Two		More than two	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Rent	1,072	68%	377	24%	135	9%
Own	3,112	68%	1,115	24%	344	8%

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



## Vision 2020 Annual Survey Results for 2014

### Public Works - Household Waste Program - RECYCLING

The Town would like to know more about your residential trash, recycling, and yard waste practices in order to continue to update and improve the recovery of **recyclable and reusable** materials.

#### Explanation of tables

These tables show how waste disposal and recycling practices vary for different demographic segments among survey respondents.

The percentages displayed indicate the % of that segment that provided a specific response. For instance 1,015 or 31% of households who are in Single family homes put out One 16-gal recycling bin/week. Percentages in most categories add to 100%.\*

#### How many recycling containers does your household put out on the curb each week, on average?

Housing type	One 16-gal bin		More than one 16-gal bin		One recycling barrel - 35 gal		More than one 35-gal barrel		Shared recycling totes		Recycling not available	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Single family	1,015	31%	1,013	31%	645	20%	563	17%	32	1%	8	0%
2-family	529	30%	584	33%	344	19%	291	16%	17	1%	6	0%
3-8 unit bldg	119	35%	93	28%	41	12%	23	7%	54	16%	6	2%
9+ unit bldg	133	20%	38	6%	18	3%	17	3%	422	64%	34	5%

Number of people in household	One 16-gal bin		More than one 16-gal bin		One recycling barrel - 35 gal		More than one 35-gal barrel		Shared recycling totes		Recycling not available	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1-2 people	1,336	40%	778	23%	418	13%	269	8%	467	14%	45	1%
3-4 people	378	17%	768	35%	511	23%	481	22%	47	2%	3	0%
5-6 people	17	5%	110	35%	73	23%	117	37%				
7+people	4	24%	7	41%			5	29%	1	6%		

Own/rent	One 16-gal bin		More than one 16-gal bin		One recycling barrel - 35 gal		More than one 35-gal barrel		Shared recycling totes		Recycling not available	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Rent	494	31%	372	24%	181	12%	133	8%	343	22%	47	3%
Own	1,348	30%	1,352	30%	872	19%	777	17%	190	4%	5	0%

Years in Arlington	One 16-gal bin		More than one 16-gal bin		One recycling barrel - 35 gal		More than one 35-gal barrel		Shared recycling totes		Recycling not available	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<5	412	26%	417	26%	339	21%	229	14%	175	11%	14	1%
6-15 yrs	399	24%	520	31%	306	18%	309	18%	142	8%	16	1%
16-25 yrs	287	29%	311	31%	164	16%	150	15%	81	8%	10	1%
26-40 yrs	291	34%	254	30%	119	14%	107	13%	69	8%	5	1%
40+ yrs	477	43%	268	24%	146	13%	132	12%	79	7%	10	1%

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



## Vision 2020 Annual Survey Results for 2014

### Arlington's Libraries - Robbins Library and the Fox Branch Library

The Library is developing a long-range plan to improve services to the community and to anticipate changing needs.

These tables show how Library responses vary for different demographic segments of the survey respondents.

#### Explanation of tables

The percentages displayed indicate the % of that segment that provided a specific response. For instance, 64 households or 28% of Precinct 1 respondents use the Library weekly. The options in the left hand table all add to 100%.\* In the right hand table, in Pct 1, 98 households indicate that "Better parking" would increase their use of the Library. This represents 21% of all the respondents to this question from Pct 1.

How frequently do people in your household use the Library?

			Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	Never	Just started
Pct. 1	In Person:	#	3	64	71	46	39	8
		%	1%	28%	31%	20%	17%	3%
Pct. 2	In Person:	#	1	77	106	59	42	11
		%	0%	26%	36%	20%	14%	4%
Pct. 3	In Person:	#	4	67	114	57	44	15
		%	1%	22%	38%	19%	15%	5%
Pct. 4	In Person:	#	4	69	104	64	49	13
		%	1%	23%	34%	21%	16%	4%
Pct. 5	In Person:	#	3	62	98	53	39	9
		%	1%	23%	37%	20%	15%	3%
Pct. 6	In Person:	#	8	85	111	47	44	12
		%	3%	28%	36%	15%	14%	4%
Pct. 7	In Person:	#	4	79	110	45	44	9
		%	1%	27%	38%	15%	15%	3%
Pct. 8	In Person:	#	4	97	143	60	34	5
		%	1%	28%	42%	17%	10%	1%
Pct. 9	In Person:	#	10	80	102	43	53	13
		%	3%	27%	34%	14%	18%	4%
Pct.10	In Person:	#	4	102	119	48	29	6
		%	1%	33%	39%	16%	9%	2%
Pct.11	In Person:	#	3	67	124	52	45	8
		%	1%	22%	41%	17%	15%	3%
Pct.12	In Person:	#	1	82	136	64	42	7
		%	0%	25%	41%	19%	13%	2%

What would increase your use of the Library?

		#	%
Better parking	Pct. 1	98	21%
	Pct. 2	110	21%
	Pct. 3	87	16%
	Pct. 4	108	19%
	Pct. 5	112	22%
	Pct. 6	101	18%
	Pct. 7	111	21%
	Pct. 8	91	16%
	Pct. 9	90	18%
	Pct.10	149	25%
	Pct.11	125	26%
	Pct.12	160	26%



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



## Vision 2020 Annual Survey Results for 2014

### Arlington's Libraries - Robbins Library and the Fox Branch Library

Continued from previous page

How frequently do people in your household use the Library?

			Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	Never	Just started
Pct.13	In Person:	#	4	58	100	54	59	8
		%	1%	20%	35%	19%	21%	3%
Pct.14	In Person:	#	5	80	102	47	41	15
		%	2%	28%	35%	16%	14%	5%
Pct.15	In Person:	#	2	66	111	50	51	6
		%	1%	23%	39%	17%	18%	2%
Pct.16	In Person:	#	1	74	103	61	39	6
		%	0%	26%	36%	21%	14%	2%
Pct.17	In Person:	#	6	62	76	60	56	19
		%	2%	22%	27%	22%	20%	7%
Pct.18	In Person:	#	2	66	100	54	60	6
		%	1%	23%	35%	19%	21%	2%
Pct.19	In Person:	#	1	58	134	61	47	6
		%	0%	19%	44%	20%	15%	2%
Pct.20	In Person:	#		58	105	58	53	12
		%		20%	37%	20%	19%	4%
Pct.21	In Person:	#	4	68	107	68	54	11
		%	1%	22%	34%	22%	17%	4%

What would increase your use of the Library?

		#	%
Better parking	Pct.13	140	29%
	Pct.14	126	23%
	Pct.15	139	27%
	Pct.16	140	28%
	Pct.17	110	23%
	Pct.18	139	28%
	Pct.19	150	26%
	Pct.20	129	25%
	Pct.21	132	24%

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



## Vision 2020 Annual Survey Results for 2014

### Arlington's Libraries - Robbins Library and the Fox Branch Library

The Library is developing a long-range plan to improve services to the community and to anticipate changing needs.

These tables show how Library responses vary for different demographic segments of the survey respondents.

#### Explanation of tables

The percentages displayed indicate the % of that segment that provided a specific response. For instance 878 households that include members "Under 18 years" indicated that "Summer weekend hours" would increase their use of the Library. This represents 21% of all households with members Under 18 years old. Percentages in most categories add to 100%.\*

What would increase your use of the Library?	Age of household members													
	Under 18 yrs		18-29 yrs		Age 30-44		45-54 yrs		55-64 yrs		65-74 yrs		75+ yrs	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
More hours	648	16%	262	15%	1,625	14%	488	15%	391	15%	211	12%	116	10%
Summer weekend hours	878	21%	316	18%	2,084	18%	633	20%	498	19%	271	16%	172	15%
Add. popular materials	356	9%	167	9%	949	8%	285	9%	167	7%	108	6%	67	6%
More entertaining programs	386	9%	137	8%	975	9%	274	8%	176	7%	131	8%	95	9%
Variety of useful programs	405	10%	172	10%	1,278	11%	345	11%	313	12%	221	13%	140	13%
More downloadable content	520	13%	278	16%	1,441	13%	425	13%	311	12%	176	10%	45	4%
Better parking	826	20%	388	22%	2,599	23%	676	21%	632	25%	532	31%	404	36%
Additional locations	111	3%	56	3%	413	4%	111	3%	74	3%	74	4%	74	7%

What would increase your use of the Library?	# Years in Arlington									
	<5		6-15 yrs		16-25 yrs		26-40 yrs		40+ yrs	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
More hours	471	15%	531	16%	277	15%	175	12%	157	11%
Summer weekend hours	615	19%	690	20%	340	19%	234	17%	182	12%
Add. popular materials	304	10%	287	9%	138	8%	96	7%	118	8%
More entertaining programs	294	9%	298	9%	129	7%	119	8%	130	9%
Variety of useful programs	373	12%	320	9%	213	12%	171	12%	187	13%
More downloadable content	468	15%	456	14%	221	12%	175	12%	111	7%
Additional locations	117	4%	94	3%	58	3%	59	4%	80	5%

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



## Vision 2020 Annual Survey Results for 2014

### Open Space Committee

Arlington's Open Space Committee is revising the Town's 2007-2014 Open Space and Recreation Plan to provide more current information and to fulfill a requirement of the State Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Many of the Town's recreational areas and large open spaces (such as the Minuteman Bikeway, Spy Pond, Menotomy Rocks Park and Robbins Farm) are popular and well used, but a variety of smaller parks and natural areas are not as well known. To find the location of these parks, go to <http://arlingtonma.gov/maps> and click "Vision 2020 Map of Arlington".

The following questions are designed to create better awareness of and access to all open spaces and recreational facilities.

### Explanation of tables

These tables show how answers for Open Space responses vary for different demographic segments of the survey respondents.

The percentages displayed indicate the % of that segment that provided a specific response. For instance 148 or 11% of households in Arlington <5 years responded No to the question of whether there are an adequate number of Children's playgrounds. Percentages in most categories add to 100%.\*

### Does the town have an adequate number of these resources?

Years in Arlington	Children's playgrounds				Tennis courts				Neighborhood parks				Natural areas/nature trails			
	#		%		#		%		#		%		#		%	
	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<5	148	1,216	11%	89%	385	843	31%	69%	226	1,170	16%	84%	384	1,002	28%	72%
6-15 yrs	112	1,391	7%	93%	376	1,049	26%	74%	268	1,256	18%	82%	473	1,034	31%	69%
16-25 yrs	66	793	8%	92%	215	601	26%	74%	160	705	18%	82%	305	558	35%	65%
26-40 yrs	71	626	10%	90%	167	495	25%	75%	131	585	18%	82%	254	445	36%	64%
40+ yrs	88	790	10%	90%	175	660	21%	79%	124	764	14%	86%	211	635	25%	75%

Years in Arlington	Community gardens				Outdoor/indoor swimming				Off leash dog recreation areas			
	#		%		#		%		#		%	
	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<5	713	585	55%	45%	938	415	69%	31%	387	873	31%	69%
6-15 yrs	791	645	55%	45%	1,054	457	70%	30%	446	952	32%	68%
16-25 yrs	466	355	57%	43%	593	279	68%	32%	299	539	36%	64%
26-40 yrs	337	319	51%	49%	433	271	62%	38%	206	448	31%	69%
40+ yrs	331	478	41%	59%	495	376	57%	43%	235	599	28%	72%

Years in Arlington	Outdoor ice skating				Indoor ice skating				Walking/bike trails			
	#		%		#		%		#		%	
	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<5	684	555	55%	45%	307	934	25%	75%	306	1,107	22%	78%
6-15 yrs	806	625	56%	44%	252	1,187	18%	82%	320	1,218	21%	79%
16-25 yrs	423	393	52%	48%	147	688	18%	82%	200	697	22%	78%
26-40 yrs	336	317	51%	49%	97	579	14%	86%	148	590	20%	80%
40+ yrs	448	393	53%	47%	180	684	21%	79%	117	803	13%	87%

## Vision 2020 Annual Survey Results for 2014

### Open Space Committee

#### Explanation of tables

These tables show how answers for Open Space responses vary for different demographic segments of the survey respondents.

The percentages displayed indicate the % of that segment that provided a specific response. For instance 337 or 21% of households who have lived in Arlington <5 years responded No to the question of whether they use Arlington's open spaces and recreational facilities. Percentages in most categories add to 100%. \*

#### Does your household use Arlington's open spaces and recreational facilities?

Years in Arlington	No		Yes		No Response	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
<5	337	21%	1,217	76%	51	3%
6-15 yrs	274	16%	1,400	80%	74	4%
16-25 yrs	192	19%	790	77%	46	4%
26-40 yrs	212	24%	605	69%	55	6%
40+ yrs	457	39%	565	48%	158	13%

Ages of household members	No		Yes		No Response	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 18 yrs	145	8%	1,751	91%	37	2%
18-29 yrs	223	22%	736	73%	50	5%
30-44 yrs	276	13%	1,784	84%	59	3%
45-54 yrs	270	16%	1,382	81%	56	3%
55-64 yrs	358	23%	1,103	71%	82	5%
65-74 yrs	339	30%	697	62%	86	8%
75+ yrs	445	45%	391	39%	157	16%